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Agenda item 50

Assistance in mine action

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Angel **Angelov** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 22nd meeting, on 1 November 2017. The Committee held a general debate and took action on the item at the same meeting.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/226).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 1 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations made an introductory statement.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.12

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Poland, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance in mine action" (A/C.4/72/L.12) and orally revised it.[1]

[1] See A/C.4/72/SR.22.

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Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at its 22nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.12, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/80 of 9 December 2015 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recalling also all relevant treaties and conventions[1] and their review processes,

Noting the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[2] and the establishment of both the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,

Noting with appreciation the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action has been commemorated worldwide,

Noting all relevant United Nations resolutions that take into account the humanitarian aspects of assistance in mine action,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development impact of mines and explosive remnants of war,[3] in affected countries, which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of such countries, including refugees and other displaced persons returning to their homes, as well as persons residing in conflict areas, and which negatively affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Bearing in mind the serious humanitarian risk that mines and explosive remnants of war pose, in affected countries, to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and mine clearance programmes and operations,

Expressing alarm at the renewed increase in casualties of mines and explosive remnants of war in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Emphasizing the increased necessity and urgency of strengthening mine action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the risk and the humanitarian impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on civilians as soon as

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[1] These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

[3] As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.

possible and to facilitating the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

Recognizing the continued progress made in surveying and clearing mines and explosive remnants of war, providing risk education to affected populations and supporting victims,

Noting that, for the purposes of the implementation of the present resolution, improvised explosive devices meeting the definition of mines, booby traps or other devices fall under the scope of mine action when their clearance is undertaken for humanitarian purposes and in areas where major active hostilities have ceased,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations plays a significant role in the field of assistance in mine action, in particular through the implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018 by members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,[4] chaired by the United Nations Mine Action Service at the working level,

Considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council,

Recognizing the contribution of mine action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5]

Noting with appreciation the cooperation and coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders through meetings of the Committee on Mine Action,[6] and its active involvement in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, such as the Global Protection Cluster, and encouraging further enhancement of that cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of the full involvement and equal opportunities for participation of both women and men in mine action programmes,

Recognizing also the valuable mine action efforts of national, regional and international mine action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, and also experts from relevant non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, enabling local communities and mine survivors to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

Noting with appreciation national, regional and subregional efforts, including the African Union Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War Strategic Framework 2014–2017,

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[4] Consisting of the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank are observers.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] The Committee on Mine Action is an informal information-sharing forum. The members are the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and academic institutions.

Noting with satisfaction that humanitarian appeals increasingly include mine action, where relevant, and underlining the importance of considering mine action during the earliest stages of planning and programming, where appropriate, in humanitarian emergency responses, in accordance with the humanitarian principles,

Taking note of the updated United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action, which highlights the significance of integrating victim assistance efforts into broader national and international frameworks, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[7] as well as the importance of sustained services and support to victims of mines and explosive remnants of war,

Noting the ongoing implementation of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018, including of its monitoring and evaluation mechanism, emphasizing the importance of using evaluation to inform the future direction of mine action within the United Nations, including the role and function of the United Nations Mine Action Service, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work to improve the impact of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

Noting also the coordination efforts under the informal donor information-sharing forum known as the Mine Action Support Group, which endeavours to coordinate the humanitarian mine action programmes of donor States, harmonizing the prioritization of their respective mine action programmes and increasing donor support for mine action where it is most needed,

Noting further the discussions on the issue of improvised explosive devices of the informal group of experts under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II),[8] and on the technical annex to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)[9] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[10]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with their respective international obligations related to mine action;

3. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, including through South-South, regional and subregional cooperation, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, upon request and as appropriate and in coordination with the affected country, to foster the establishment and development of national mine action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population or an impediment to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels;

4. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, upon request and as appropriate, by providing:

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[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[8] Ibid., vol. 2048, No. 22495.
[9] Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.
[11] A/72/226.

(a) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine action capacities, including in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries;

(b) Support for national programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by mines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men;

(c) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine action activities, including through national mine action efforts and mine action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response in humanitarian emergencies, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

(d) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(e) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war; and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine action techniques and technologies that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

5. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help to facilitate mine action activities;

6. *Notes* the ongoing work to further update the International Mine Action Standards;

7. *Urges* all mine-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

8. *Encourages* mine-affected States, with support from relevant United Nations agencies and development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action, including victim assistance requirements and their linkage with health care and disabilities agendas, into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action, including victim assistance requirements, is predictably funded;

9. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, stabilization, rehabilitation, reconstruction, peace sustainment and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender- and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities;

10. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine action programmes take into account risk education, the specific needs and requirements of victims and persons with disabilities and are gender- and age-sensitive, so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and also take into account the specific needs of refugees and internally displaced persons, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, including women, in the programming of mine action;

11. *Urges* States to provide humanitarian assistance for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war and to take measures to spare the civilian population consistent with the principles of international humanitarian law;

12. *Encourages* States to support victims' access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities and to provide those services to all, regardless of gender, age or socioeconomic status;

13. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and other entities with expertise in those matters;

14. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action and of devoting existing resources, as appropriate, to that end, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations, with the United Nations Mine Action Service as the coordinator for mine action within the United Nations system, and other relevant organizations in that regard;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the continued partnership and cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, especially the African Union, to mitigate the risk to civilians from mines and explosive remnants of war, including through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and encourages in this regard the establishment of partnerships with regional, national and local organizations, as appropriate;

16. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, when appropriate, in ceasefire and peace agreements, as well as in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate, in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace- and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned and in view of the ongoing dangers faced by peacekeeping personnel and host populations;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018;

18. *Encourages* those States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies, as well as transparency and accountability;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

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General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 51

Effects of atomic radiation

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Angel **Angelov** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item, held a general debate and took action on the item at its 23rd meeting, on 2 November 2017.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/72/46);

(b) A list of Member States expressing interest in membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/72/557).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Belgium, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, made a statement on the work of that Committee.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.13

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Peru, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Effects

[1] See A/C.4/72/SR.23.

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of atomic radiation" (A/C.4/72/L.13). Subsequently, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.13 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which humankind and the environment are exposed,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on humankind and the environment, and conscious also of the increased volume, complexity and diversity of that information,

Acknowledging the concerns about the radiological consequences of nuclear accidents,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Committee,

Emphasizing the vital need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding, as well as efficient management, of the work of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to arrange the annual sessions and coordinate the development of documents based on scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and the need to carry out unforeseen additional work, such as after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station,

Considering that the high quality of the work and the scientific rigour of the Scientific Committee need to be maintained in the future,

Recognizing the importance of disseminating the findings of the Scientific Committee, in particular to the public, and widely publicizing scientific knowledge about atomic radiation, and recalling in that context principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1]

Noting the need for the resources of the Scientific Committee to be sufficient, assured and predictable, and recognizing the importance of voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the Committee,

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

Commending the secretariat of the Scientific Committee for its ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective work of the Committee, and encouraging all States in a position to do so to provide support to the secretariat of the Committee,

Expressing its appreciation to the outgoing Secretary of the Scientific Committee for his personal contribution to the activities of the Committee,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution that it has been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of exposure to ionizing radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgment;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report will be able to reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Scientific Committee, and takes note of the report on its sixty-fourth session, [2] including the report on the implementation of its long-term strategic directions, and encourages the Committee, over its coming sessions, to continue to work towards implementing strategies to support its long-term efforts to serve the scientific community, as well as wider audiences;

5. *Appreciates* the arrangements made by the Scientific Committee for activities to follow up on its 2013 evaluation of the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami, such as the systematic review of scientific information published since the completion of the Committee's evaluation, [3] welcomes the publication of the third review, and encourages the secretariat of the Committee to disseminate the findings of the Committee's systematic reviews, in particular, to the public;

6. *Welcomes* the two substantive scientific evaluations completed by the Scientific Committee during its sixty-fourth session, on the principles and criteria for ensuring the quality of the Committee's reviews of epidemiological studies of radiation exposure and on epidemiological studies of cancer risk due to low-dose-rate radiation from environmental sources, [4] looks forward to the publication of the supporting scientific annexes thereto, and appreciates the evaluation of data on thyroid cancer in regions affected by the Chernobyl accident;

7. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

8. *Supports* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for conducting its programme of work of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, in particular its next periodic global surveys of radiation exposure, to be conducted in close cooperation with other relevant organizations, and requests the Committee to submit plans for its ongoing and future programme of work to the Assembly at its seventy-third session;

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/72/46).

[3] Ibid., chap. II, sect. B.1.

[4] Ibid., chap. III.

9. *Welcomes* developments in streamlining procedures for publishing the reports of the Scientific Committee electronically on its official website and as sales publications, and calls upon the secretariat to continue both to monitor the timely publication of those reports and to strive to publish them within the same calendar year as their approval;

10. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports, and requests the secretariat to continue to facilitate such consultations;

11. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, and invites the Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

12. *Recalls* the strategy of the Scientific Committee to improve data collection, encourages in this regard Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about levels, effects and risks of radiation exposure from various sources, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Committee to the General Assembly, and encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations to further collaborate with the secretariat on arrangements for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on radiation exposures of patients, workers and the public;

13. *Welcomes* the use and ongoing development by the secretariat of an online platform for collecting data on the exposure of patients and workers, and urges Member States to take part in the Scientific Committee's global surveys of radiation exposure and to nominate a national contact person to facilitate coordination of the collection and submission of data on the exposure of patients, workers and the public within the country;

14. *Takes note* of the Scientific Committee's outreach strategy for the coming years, in particular the enhancement of the website of the Committee and the publication of informative leaflets and posters in all the official languages of the United Nations, and continues to encourage that consideration be given to publishing the website in all of those languages;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue, within existing resources, to service the Scientific Committee and to disseminate its findings to Member States, the scientific community and the public and to ensure that the administrative measures in place are appropriate, including clear roles and responsibilities of the various actors,[5] so that the secretariat is able to adequately and efficiently service the Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner and effectively facilitate the use of the invaluable expertise offered to the Committee by its members in order that the Committee may discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in view of the resignation of the current Secretary of the Scientific Committee, to take proactive steps to ensure continuity in the Committee secretariat through the timely appointment of the next Secretary;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure that support for the Scientific Committee is appropriate, sufficient and, where necessary, strengthened,

[5] Ibid., chap. II, sect. E, para. 39.

within existing resources, particularly with regard to the deputization of the Secretary and the avoidance of disruptions in staffing, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on these issues;

18. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and also to make contributions in kind, in order to support the work of the Scientific Committee, and the dissemination of its findings, in a sustainable manner;

19. *Takes note* of the list provided by the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 71/89 of 6 December 2016, of Member States that had expressed, by 11 September 2017, their interest in membership in the Scientific Committee, namely, Algeria, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Norway and the United Arab Emirates,[6] and invites each of these Member States to designate one scientist to attend the sixty-fifth session of the Committee as an observer;

20. *Decides* to review the possible increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee with a view to establishing a procedure at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly for possible further increases in membership of the Committee, and to apply this procedure with regard to the list referred to in paragraph 19 above, pursuant to paragraph 19 of Assembly resolution 66/70 of 9 December 2011.

[6] A/72/557.

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 52

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Angel **Angelov** (Bulgaria)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th meetings, from 11 to 13 and on 17 October 2017. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/72/20).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, chaired by the delegation of Canada, to prepare proposals to be submitted under the item.

5. At the 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space introduced the report of that Committee.

6. At the 11th meeting, on 12 October, the Fourth Committee held a joint meeting with the First Committee to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability. Statements were made by the Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Senior Director of Policy at the Satellite Industry Association, a senior scientist with the

[1] A/C.4/72/SR.10, A/C.4/72/SR.11, A/C.4/72/SR.12 and A/C.4/72/SR.13.

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Union of Concerned Scientists, the Vice-President of Airbus Defence and Space and a programme officer with Project Ploughshares.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.2

7. At the 13th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Canada, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" (A/C.4/72/L.2) and orally revised several paragraphs.[2]

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.2, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 19).

B. Draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.3

10. At the 13th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Canada, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" (A/C.4/72/L.3), and orally revised it by inserting a new operative paragraph 10 and revising operative paragraph 13.[2]

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.3, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 19).

C. Draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.4

13. At the 13th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Canada, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/C.4/72/L.4).

14. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/72/L.4 without a vote (see para. 19).

D. Draft decision A/C.4/72/L.8

16. At the 13th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft decision entitled "Election of officers nominated for the bureaux of the Committee on the

[2] See A/C.4/72/SR.13.

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018–2019" (A/C.4/72/L.8). Subsequently, Argentina, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

17. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

18. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.4/72/L.8 by a recorded vote of 124 to 22, with 6 abstentions (see para. 20). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Malaysia.

[3] The delegation of Lesotho subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

19. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013, 69/85 of 5 December 2014, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 70/82 of 9 December 2015, 70/230 of 23 December 2015 and 71/90 of 6 December 2016,

Emphasizing the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities,

Recognizing, in that regard, the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all Member States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of international law, including the relevant norms of international space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recognizing that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

Deeply concerned about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris, which is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

Convinced that space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2]

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,[3] and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Firmly convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as tele-health, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and ocean and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Deeply concerned about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, including Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to enhance the role of space-based solutions, in particular tele-epidemiology, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

Recalling the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,[4]

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixtieth session,[5]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixtieth session;[5]

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its sixty-first session, should consider the substantive items recommended at its sixtieth session,[6] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

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[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] The term "disasters" refers to natural or technological disasters.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 274.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20).

[6] Ibid., para. 349.

3. *Notes* that, at its fifty-sixth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[7] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/90;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-seventh session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[8] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[9] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that the space law curriculum developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and published in all official languages of the United Nations could encourage further studies within Member States in cooperation with relevant entities in support of capacity-building efforts in space law and policy;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,[10] as finalized at the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for further joint undertakings by spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;

8. *Notes* that, at its fifty-fourth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,[11] as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/90;

9. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,[12] taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

10. *Reiterates* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity for predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and notes with

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[7] Ibid., chap. II.C; see also A/AC.105/1122.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 244–246.

[9] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

[10] A/AC.105/C.2/112.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), chap. II.B; see also A/AC.105/1138.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 164 and 165.

satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group;[13]

11. *Notes with appreciation* that some Member States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[14] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other Member States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

12. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of the gradually increasing probability of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

13. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

14. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end;

15. *Emphasizes* the significant role of the Office in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* the programme of work undertaken by the Office in 2017 to strengthen international cooperation in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, including the workshops and symposiums conducted to build capacity, the assistance provided to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law, and actions implemented to strengthen institutional capacity in space activities;

17. *Requests* the Office to continue to apprise the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2018, of the status of its capacity-building activities;

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[13] See A/AC.105/1138, paras. 205–210.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), annex.

18. *Recognizes* the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provide unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities;[15]

19. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out under the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and recognizes the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to 40 Member States within the framework of UN-SPIDER since its establishment in 2006[16] with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[17] in which the value of space-based technology and Earth observation for disaster management and emergency response is recognized, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Office and its UN-SPIDER programme towards promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services at the national and local levels in contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[2]

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee will hold its twelfth meeting in Kyoto, Japan, from 2 to 7 December 2017;

22. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, located in China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2017, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

23. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist Member States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

[15] See A/AC.105/1138, sect. II.

[16] Resolution 61/110.

[17] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

24. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by such organizations as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the European Space Agency and by conferences and other mechanisms, such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Space Conference of the Americas, in strengthening regional and international cooperation among Member States;

25. *Welcomes* the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, and notes that this achievement marks the first step towards the realization of an African outer space programme within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063;

26. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

27. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

28. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, with the involvement of the Office;

29. *Encourages* the Office to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes and other activities in support of the objectives, as appropriate, and to conduct capacity-building activities, hold lectures and participate in academic and research activities to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

30. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

31. *Encourages* the Office to continue to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

32. *Also encourages* the Office to continue exploring existing avenues and new opportunities to increase its capability to meet the growing demand for support to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, in using space science and technology and their applications and to inform the Committee of those efforts;

33. *Agrees* that the Office should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office;[18]

34. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions, industry and private sector entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to support the efforts of the Office to secure additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of its programme of work, including, where appropriate, the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the Office in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular for developing countries;

35. *Decides* that Bahrain, Denmark and Norway shall become members of the Committee;

36. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the European Science Foundation, represented by the European Space Sciences Committee, and the University Space Engineering Consortium-Global;[19]

37. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

[18] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), para. 326.

[19] Ibid., paras. 345 and 347.

Draft resolution II
Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

The General Assembly

Adopts the following declaration

Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

We, the States Members of the United Nations, in observing the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

1. Reiterate the importance of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space";

2. Recall that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966, was opened for signature in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 27 January 1967, and entered into force on 10 October 1967;

3. Note that, as at 1 January 2017, 105 States had become parties to the Treaty and an additional 25 States had signed it;

4. Reaffirm the fundamental role played by the Treaty in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding;

5. Are convinced that the Treaty and its principles, as reflected in its articles I to XIII, will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities, which continue to hold immense potential to deliver further advancements in human knowledge, to drive socioeconomic progress for all humankind and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

6. Recognize that the achievements made in space exploration and the development of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind, and international cooperation initiatives to those ends, have exceeded all expectations existing at the time of the adoption of the Treaty;

7. Acknowledge that there has been a significant rise in the importance to States of space science and technology applications, which enable greater understanding of the universe and of the Earth and contribute to advances in, inter alia, education, health, environmental monitoring, the management of natural resources on Earth, disaster management, meteorological forecasting, climate modelling, the protection of cultural heritage, information technology and satellite

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

navigation and communications, and to the well-being of humanity through economic, social and cultural development;

8. Are deeply convinced that strengthening the long-term sustainability of outer space activities requires efforts at the national, regional, interregional and international levels;

9. Emphasize the constantly evolving and increasingly multifaceted nature of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with fundamentally complex scientific and technological advancements in the space field and an increasing variety of actors in the space arena, and therefore encourage the building of stronger partnership, cooperation and coordination;

10. Recognize the need for further promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries;

11. Call upon all States parties to the Treaty conducting outer space activities to work under the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance, paying due regard to the corresponding interests of other parties to the Treaty;

12. Are inspired by the prospects that continue to open up before humankind as a result of human activities in outer space;

13. Encourage States that have not yet become parties to the Treaty, in particular those States that are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to consider becoming party to it;

14. Emphasize, in this regard, that the benefits arising from adherence to the Treaty, as part of the legal regime of outer space, are significant for all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, and that being party to the Treaty would enhance the ability of States to become part of international cooperation efforts in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

15. Reiterate the role of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities and that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law;

16. Affirm that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, together with its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, has a distinguished historical record in the establishment and further development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, that under that regime, outer space activities by States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing and that, as a result, space science and technology and their applications contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world;

17. Call upon the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee to continue, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to promote the widest adherence to the Treaty, and its application by States, and to foster the progressive development of international space law;

18. Request the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation, in conformity with international space law.

Draft resolution III
Consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2453 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 54/68 of 6 December 1999 and 59/2 of 20 October 2004,

Recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), to be commemorated in 2018, as an opportunity to consider the current status of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to chart its future contribution to the global governance of outer space activities,[1]

Taking note with satisfaction of the work of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat towards the implementation of the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50, including the related objectives and mechanisms, agreed by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session,[2]

Emphasizing the significance of the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50, to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018 during the sixty-first session of the Committee, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and at which concrete deliverables and outcomes are to be concluded for presentation to the General Assembly in the form of a resolution to be considered at its seventy-third session, including on the "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan for strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term development concerns of humankind based on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,[3]

Convinced that UNISPACE+50 offers a unique opportunity for Member States to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration and to look towards the future by strengthening the mandates of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

1. *Decides* to consider in plenary meeting at its seventy-third session an agenda item entitled "Space as a driver of sustainable development" in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50);

2. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit a draft resolution on the outcomes of UNISPACE+50 for the consideration of the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, at its seventy-third session;

3. *Decides* that the plenary meeting or meetings shall be held immediately after the consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the agenda item on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

4. *Endorses* the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space relating to the preparations for UNISPACE+50, including the holding of intersessional consultations from 7 to 11 May 2018, open to all States Members of the United Nations.[4]

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[1] See A/AC.105/L.297 and A/AC.105/1137.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/71/20), para. 296.

[3] Ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/72/20), paras. 321–324.

[4] Ibid., paras. 324 and 328.

20. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Election of officers nominated for the bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018–2019

The General Assembly, noting that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-sixth session on the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[1] on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,[2] the African States, the Asia-Pacific States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States have nominated their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, First Vice-Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, Chair of the Committee and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2018–2019,[3] endorses the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018–2019, and agrees that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, at their respective sessions in 2018, shall elect their officers nominated for that period.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex II, paras. 5–9.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I; and ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex II, appendix III.

[3] See notes verbales reproduced in A/AC.105/2017/CRP.18, A/AC.105/2017/CRP.14, A/AC.105/2017/CRP.17, A/AC.105/2017/CRP.16 and A/AC.105/2017/CRP.15. Available from http://www.unoosa.org/.